

REMARKS

Due to a numbering error, claims 12-20 which were presented in applicants' Preliminary Amendment have been renumbered as claims 10-18 in the present Amendment, in accordance with the numbering sequence which the Examiner correctly adopted in the Office Action.

Claims 10-18 have been amended for proper dependency in accordance with the renumbering, and amendments have been made to correct some informalities, including the informalities in claim 10 which were mentioned by the Examiner. Claim 10 has been further amended to define the invention more clearly and concisely.

Claims 10-12 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Laudig et al. (US-4,772,222). Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 10 recites a connector comprising a plug receiver and a socket housing wherein the plug receiver has a latching device for securing a plug to be received, and the plug receiver is mountable in one of three different positions on the socket housing, so that the latching device is disposed either to the left of the socket housing or to the right or at an end face of the socket housing.

Laudig et al. discloses a plug receiver (7), a plug (16), and a socket housing (22). However, Laudig et al. does not disclose a latching device for securing the plug.

The Examiner states that Laudig et al. discloses a latching device (51) for securing the plug (16). Applicants respectfully disagree that element (51) is a latching device. Laudig et al. teaches (column 4, lines 6-30) that element (51) is merely a cover that extends above a cavity portion (11) of the plug receiver (7). Laudig et al. does not teach or suggest that element (51) or any other element can serve as a latching device for securing the plug (16). Instead, Laudig et al. teaches that the plug is secured by being soldered to a conductor (3) of a cable (2) (column 3, line 59 to column 4, line 2), and the cable (2) is securely held by a ferrule (38) within a cable holder (15) (column 3, lines 36-43). Thus, Laudig et al. does not need a latching device to secure the plug (16) in the plug receiver.


Laudig et al. does not disclose or suggest applicants' invention as recited in claim 10, and therefore, claim 10 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowable over Laudig et al.

Applicants are pleased to acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the above discussion of claim 10, applicants believe that claims 13-16 are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all the claims, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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